

## Review of Transition Stage 1

Transition Stage 1 was the first part of a three stage process to transition away from the noncommercial river-trip waitlist to the new weighted lottery system. Waitlist member notification about Transition Stage 1 began on March 23, 2006 almost immediately after the Federal Register posting of the Record of Decision for the Colorado River Management Plan. In this stage recent cancellations plus up to 600 launch dates from calendar years 2007 through 2011 would be made available to waitlist members through an initial scheduling process similar to what has been used in previous years. The 600 launch dates represent approximately 24% of the new noncommercial allocation throughout the 2007 through 2011 timeframe and were to be distributed proportionately throughout the entire timeframe according to the following Launch Distribution Pattern.

### Launch Distribution Pattern

120 Launches per Year, 2007-2011 <sup>*</sup>	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Full Size Trip (1 to 16 person)	8	8	11	8	8	8	8	8	11	11	8	8
Half Size Trip (1 to 8 person)				3	3	3	3	3				

<sup>\*</sup> Months with Transition Stage 1 quota of 8 full size trips can have no more than 2 trips per week, months with 11 trips can have no more than 3 per week, and half size trips cannot exceed 1 trip per week.

On March 23, 2006 letters were mailed to everyone on the waitlist. (One can download a copy of the March 23<sup>rd</sup> letter here: [www.nps.gov/grca/river/non\\_commercial\\_general\\_info.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grca/river/non_commercial_general_info.htm).) Courtesy copies of the letter were also emailed to waitlist members. The letter explained the new system and the transition process and instructed readers to watch our website for updates. All letters sent to members with waitlist numbers between 05#00001 and 05#01500 included Launch Date Preference Forms (LDPFs). On these forms applicant's could list all the launch dates throughout this time period which they were willing to accept. LDPFs were to be faxed to the River Office by a May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 due date.

In the weeks before the due date, the River Permits Office was busy. A tremendous number of phone calls and emails were answered, and additional updates and answers to questions were posted on our website: [www.nps.gov/grca/river/noncommercial-transition.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grca/river/noncommercial-transition.htm). As LDPFs arrived in the River Permits Office, each was sorted by waitlist number. Follow up phone calls were made when forms were unreadable. Then, soon after the due-date, the scheduling process began.

In waitlist order, applications were considered one at a time. If the first choice on an application could not be filled, then the second choice was considered, continuing in order down the applicant's list until the list was exhausted or the applicant was awarded a launch. When the number of launches reserved through Transition Stage 1 within any week or month reached the quota listed in the above Launch Distribution Pattern, no other launches within that respective week or month could be booked through Transition Stage 1. Waitlist members who's LDPFs were unsuccessful were returned to the waitlist and notified by email. Members who successfully obtained launch dates were notified by letter and email. Similar to what has always occurred with the waitlist, those who were awarded launches were immediately removed from the waitlist.

Popular months were booked up to their Transition Stage 1 quota first. For standard (1 to 16 person) trips, the first 17 months to fill to their Transition Stage 1 quota were (in order): May 2007, Sep 2007, Jun 2007, Jun 2008, Sep 2008, May 2008, July 2007, Jun 2009, May 2009, April 2007, Jun 2011, July 2008, Jun 2010, Sep 2009, May 2010, Jul 2009, and Aug 2007. The first month to fill to its Transition Stage 1 quota for both standard (1 to 16 person) and small (1 to 8 person) launches was April 2007.

After considering all LDPFs received by the River Office from waitlist members with numbers between 05#00001 and 05#01500, every non-winter, standard launch for 2007 through 2011 had been claimed. 163 launches, however, remained available for distribution through Transition Stage 1: 22 small, summer launches, and 141 standard winter launches. In addition 19 other launch dates for calendar year 2006 were available from cancellations. Emails were sent to all waitlist members during the weekend of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006 explaining what dates remained available and would be released through the cancellation line during the following week.

The process of releasing the remaining launches through the cancellation line took place during the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> through May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006. On Monday waitlist members with numbers between 05#00001 and 05#01500 were eligible to call-in through the cancellation line and claim available dates, and they claimed most of the remaining small trips and

August 2006 trips as well as 1 winter trip. On Tuesday, waitlist members with numbers up to 05#03000 were eligible to call in, and they claimed the rest of the small trips, the rest of the August 2006 cancellations, most June and July 2006 cancellations, and 10 winter dates. At this point there were 133 launch dates remaining available through Transition Stage 1: 1 June 2006 launch, 2 July 2006 launches, and 130 winter launches. On Wednesday waitlist members with numbers up to 05#04500 were eligible to call in, and they claimed both remaining July 2006 cancellations plus 12 winter dates. On Thursday members with numbers up to 05#06000 were eligible to call in, and they claimed the remaining June 2006 cancellation plus 23 winter dates. On Friday any waitlist member could call in, and another 28 dates were claimed by 1:30 pm when this was sent to be posted on the internet. Any of the remaining 67 winter dates not claimed through the cancellation line by 5:00pm will be released through the appropriate years lottery. This concluded Transition Stage 1.